

Minutes  
**Labor-Management Advisory Council on  
Workers' Compensation**

March 13, 2009

1:15-2:30 pm

**Advisory council members present:** Jason Miller, Co-Chair; Jerry Keck, Don Judge, Dan Lee, Jacquie Helt, Riley Johnson, Bill Dahlgren, Annette Hoffman, Connie Welsh  
Bob Worthington gave his proxy to Riley Johnson.

**Core team members present:** Diana Ferriter, George Kochman, Keith Messmer, Mark Cadwallader, Anne Wolfinger

**Others present:** Carl Kochman, Montana State Fund; Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

- I. Status of LMAC Bill, HB 283  
HB 283 passed out of committee. Senator Roy Brown will carry the bill on the Senate floor.
- II. Status of WorkSafeMT funding in Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) budget bill  
The budget amendment providing one-time funding (\$500,000 each of the next two fiscal years) for WorkSafeMT was formally incorporated into HB 2 on an 18-2 vote. Representative McNutt is sponsoring the amendment.
- III. Status of Department Workers' Compensation Bills  
HB 119—Sen. Barkus is carrying the bill. The bill is available online as HB 119-04 with the Senate amendments regarding religious organizations.  
HB 138—on Governor's desk for signature.
- V. Status of Other Workers' Compensation Bills  
The LMAC discussed the two bills dealing with exemptions, HB 598 and SB 363. They decided to further discuss what a study bill would look like at their next meeting, and the possibility of rolling SB 363 into that study. That idea may be proposed to the sponsor of SB 363 after HB 598 is decided.  
  
The LMAC reviewed the rest of the bills. No action was taken.
- VI. Update on WorkSafeMT  
George Kochman reported the first of 14 focus groups was meeting today in the WorkSafeMT strategic planning process. These meetings will wind up the first week of May.
- VII. Public Comment  
Marvin Jordan talked about the Medicare secondary payer issue, an unfunded federal requirement, and how the cost of developing reporting systems may drive up work comp costs. He and Jon Bennion from the Montana Chamber of Commerce requested it be considered on the LMAC workplan.
- VII. Next Steps  
Next teleconference: Friday, March 20th, 1:15p, Montana Room in the Governor's Office, State Capitol